

HA-1422

c. 1913

Forsythe House
102 S. Hickory
Bel Air
public

This is an early example of Bel Air's favorite Colonial Revival house style. It is a simple square house with a hip roof broken by a dormer at each side.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-1422
1314224711

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Forsythe House
AND/OR COMMON
County Offices

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
102 S. Hickory
CITY, TOWN
Bel Air
STATE
Maryland
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st
VICINITY OF
COUNTY
Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Harford County
STREET & NUMBER
45 S. Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Bel Air
STATE, zip code
Maryland 21014
Telephone #: 838-6000
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Bel Air
STATE
Maryland

Liber #: 878
Folio #: 986

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

NA-1422

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is at 102 S. Hickory in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It is a square, two and a half story Classical Revival house of a kind common in Bel Air between 1900 and 1925. It is three bays wide with a slate hipped roof broken in front (east) by a hipped roof slate-sided dormer having a pair of 6/1 double-hung sash windows. The rest of the windows are large 1/1. A corbelled capped chimney rises just west of the roof ridge.

The front (east) porch has a hipped roof carried on slim doric columns with a balustrade composed of a handrail supported in the middle by one baluster. The rear (west) porch is at the south bay of the west elevation. It has a shed roof carried on stock turned posts. The ramp access is to this porch.

There are now two front entrances to the building. The entrance to the first floor is probably the original entrance. It is a 1 pane over 4 panel door between the two windows. In the south bay is a 4 pane over 4 panel door leading to the (now enclosed) closed string, dog-leg staircase with square balusters. The paneled newel has a graceful "hipped" knob.

The ground floor has four small rooms, the southwest one formerly the bath. The only change is a pass-through window cut in the wall between the eastern two chambers.

The upstairs has four bedrooms and a bath.

All of the interior woodwork has slightly moulded surrounds with corner blocks carved in a "door-bell" pattern.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1913?

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house in a vernacular treatment of the Classical Revival, is one of two houses on this lot. The other is facing E. Courtland (#25). This house, of a later date than #25, was probably built by William George Forsythe and his wife Clara after they bought the property from C. Robie Grafton in late 1912 (139/143).

The other house was probably built by either Joseph T. Deckman after 1902 or by Clarence N. Purcell after 1906. Deckman bought the property from John L. G. Lee for \$212 in 1902 (104/498). The price suggests the lot was unimproved. Deckman sold it to Purcell in 1906 (120/25). Purcell sold it to C. Robie Grafton in 1912 (137/293). Grafton had his buggy and runabout shop there for a while in the early part of the century before he moved across the street to the corner of Churchville Road where the Fire House is today. He had a Maxwell agency there.

As late as 1930 there was a cinderblock auto repair shop on the west part of the lot behind the second house. It has been demolished for a county parking lot.

To return to 102 S. Hickory, considering the styles of the two houses, this one was probably built after Grafton sold the property. The Forsythes lived there until they died, Mr. Forsythe dying first and Mrs. Forsythe dying in 1937. She left the property to Anna Forsythe France by will (20/56). Mrs. France sold the property to the Harford County Commissioners in 1971 (878/986).

#102 S. Hickory is now County offices. The Commission on Aging has the ground floor. The Historic District Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission are housed on the second floor.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bel Air Centennial Book
1930 Sanborn Map

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies the east end of parcel #877 in the Town of Bel Air,
49.84' x 123.81'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn M. Larew, Architectural Historian

19 September 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Town of Bel Air

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

39 Hickory Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bel Air

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 STATE CIRCLE SHAW HOUSE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401		SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1422	
		NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:	
HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET Individual Structure Survey Form		UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing	
		U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:	
		PRESENT FORMAL NAME: County Offices	
COUNTY: Harford TOWN: Bel Air		ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Forsythe House	
LOCATION: 102 S. Hickory		PRESENT USE: County Offices	
		ORIGINAL USE: private residence	
COMMON NAME: Forsythe House		ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:	
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: private residence		BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:	
OWNER: Harford County ADDRESS: 45 S. Main Street Bel Air		PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent() Good(x) Fair() Poor()	
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes(x) No() Restricted()		THEME: Architecture	
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local(x) State() National()		STYLE: Vernacular	
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System		DATE BUILT: c. 1913	
1. Foundation: Stone(x) Brick() Concrete() Concrete Block() 2. Wall Structure A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam() Balloon() B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick() Stone() Concrete() Concrete Block() C. Iron() D. Steel() E. Other: 3. Wall Covering: Clapboard() Board and Batten() Wood Shingle() Shiplap() Novelty() Stucco() Sheet Metal() Aluminum() Asphalt Shingle(x) Brick Veneer() Stone Veneer() Bonding Pattern: Other: 4. Roof Structure A. Truss: Wood() Iron() Steel() Concrete() B. Other: 5. Roof Covering: Slate(x) Wood Shingle() Asphalt Shingle() Sheet Metal() Built Up() Rolled() Tile() Other: 6. Engineering Structure: 7. Other: hip corbelled Appendages: Porches(x) Towers() Cupolas(x) Dormers(x) Chimneys() Sheds() Ells() Wings() Other: Roof Style: Gable() Hip(x) Shed() Flat() Mansard() Gambrel() Jerkinhead() Saw Tooth() With Monitor() With Bellcast() With Parapet() With False Front() Other: Number of Stories: 2½ Number of Bays: 3 Approximate Dimensions: 25' x 25' Entrance Location: Hickory			
THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat() Zoning(x) Roads() Development() Deterioration() Alteration() Other:		LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive() Negative() Mixed() Other:	

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

windows 1/1 ex dormer 6/1 (pair)
 dormer
 porch doric columns doors 4/4 panel (s) 1/4 panel (n)
 woodwork - corner block w/ carved doorbell, molded (slight)
 closed string dog-leg stair, square balusters
 panel newel with pyramidal knob
 upstairs 4 br, bath

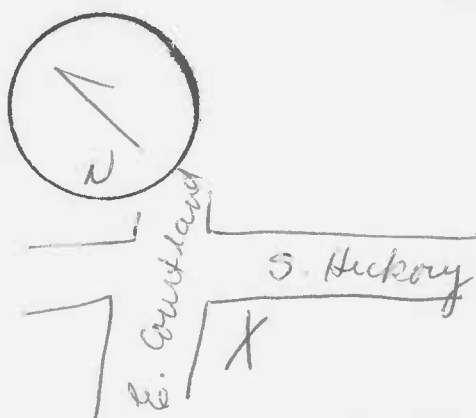
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

small Classical Revival House

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane() Woodland() Scattered Buildings()
 Moderately Built Up() Densely Built Up()
 Residential(✓) Commercial(✓)
 Agricultural() Industrial()
 Roadside Strip Development()
 Other:

Marilynn M. Larew

RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:

17 September 1979

DATE RECORDED:

TITLE: 102 S. Hickory/25 E. Courtland

878/986 13 July 1971
Anna Virginia France & Earl
to
Harford County Commissioners
49.84' x 123.81'
Virginia France (née Forsythe) is the heir
of William George and Clara Forsythe
Mr. Forsythe died first, Mrs. Forsythe died
in 1937 (will 20/56).

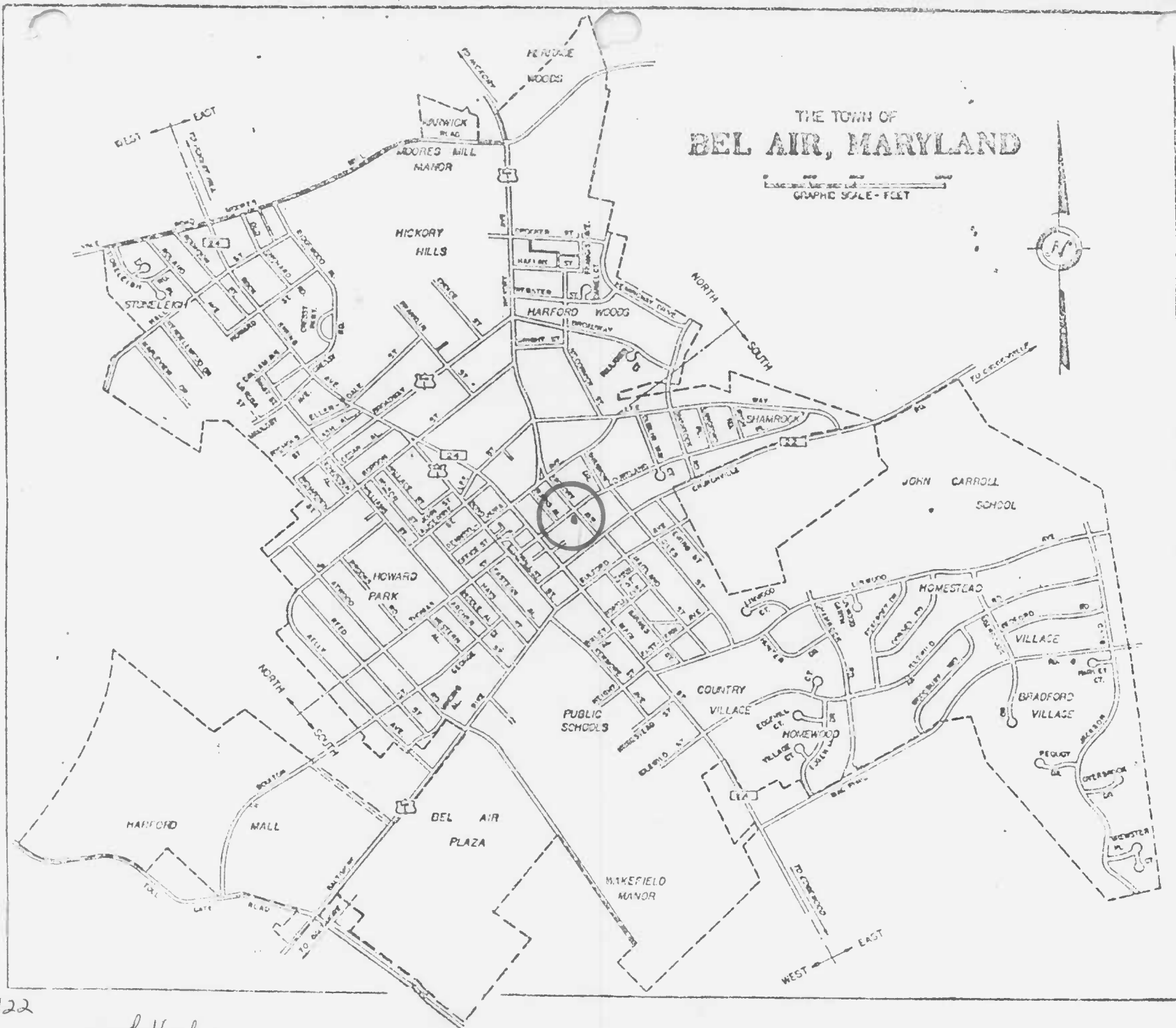
139/143 24 December 1912
C. Robie Grafton and Anna
to
William George Forsythe and Clara

137/293 29 June 1912
Clarence M. Purcell, widower, John & Florida
Deckman, and John L. G. Lee
to
C. Robie Grafton
several parcels
The Deckmans and Lee join to eliminate an error

120/25 23 August 1906
Joseph T. Deckman & Florida
to
Clarence N. Purcell
50' x 150'

104/498 25 October 1902
John L. G. Lee
to
Joseph T. Deckman
\$212

100/388 29 October 1900
Charles L. Dallam & Isabel, & Fireside
Permanent Building Association
to
John L. G. Lee
\$200



HA-1422

102 S. Hickory







